

True Armyworm Monitoring Program in Manitoba - 2024



Larvae of armyworms, *Mythimna unipuncta*, sometimes called true armyworms, can cause significant feeding injury to cereals and forage grasses when levels are abundant. They do not overwinter in the Canadian prairie provinces, but large numbers can potentially migrate in. If conditions are favorable for their survival and reproduction when they arrive, and if natural enemies do not limit population establishment, populations can increase.

Pheromone-baited traps (Figure 1), which attract the male moths, are established for a 12-week period from early-May until late-July to detect the arrival of populations of armyworms early in the season. The cumulative counts from the traps cannot predict what levels of larvae will be, but can be used to determine regions of the province where increased attention for armyworms is recommended when scouting fields of cereals and forage grasses.



Figure 1. Trap for armyworms



Figure 2. Armyworm moth

Summary (as of June 5, 2024)

Pheromone-baited traps for adult moths have been set up at 38 locations in Manitoba in 2024.

- Some moderate to high counts have occurred in traps in the Eastern and Interlake regions.
- Armyworms have been caught in 25 traps so far. Seven traps, two in the Eastern region and five in the Interlake region, have caught over 25 armyworm moths.

The highest cumulative trap count so far is 222 from a trap in the Eastern region near Dencross. There are some areas in the Eastern and Interlake regions where looking for larvae of armyworms while scouting cereals and forage grasses would be good to prioritize.

Table 1. Highest cumulative trap counts for true armyworm per agricultural region in Manitoba as of June 5, 2024.

Location	Count	Location	Count
Northwest			
Russell	0		
Southwest			
Pierson	9	Rivers	6
Medora	6	Belmont	1
Central			
Morris	9	Horndean	0
St. Joseph	8	Rosenfeld	0
Altona	0		
Eastern			
Dencross	222	Lorette	7
Beausejour	115	Kleefeld	3
New Bothwell	11		
Interlake			
Riverton	204	Gunton	23
Washow Bay	92	Meadows	20
Fisher Branch	65	East Selkirk	19
Moosehorn	63	Balmoral	18
Teulon	27	Clandeboye	16

Guidelines for monitoring larvae of armyworm can be found at:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/armyworms-factsheet-revised-january2024.pdf>



Figure 3. Armyworm larvae